



Eddie A. Perez, Mayor

PARENTS STATEWIDE LEARNING MORE ABOUT MAYOR PEREZ'S FOCUS ON EDUCATION

(January 12, 2006)--- **Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez believes in an important equation: Education = Empowerment.** That concept is the focus of a feature article in this month's "**Connecticut Parent Magazine.**" From the creation of the Office for Young Children to Mayor Perez's Higher Education Initiative, the article emphasizes how education starts at birth and how the skills learned in the earliest years benefit our youngest residents throughout their lives.

Mayor Perez says, "Each generation wants the next to achieve more success and accolades. To give this and the next generation of Hartford residents the competitive edge in life, the process of education must begin at birth."

While the goal is to prepare our children now for a better tomorrow, for many students, the future is now. That is why Mayor Perez wants to increase the number of Hartford students who graduate from college by 25-percent.

Mayor Perez says, "The public school curriculum has been strengthened to include more college preparatory courses. Magnet schools are competitive for both city and suburban children. For every one available space, there are three applicants. And now my private school initiative can be added to that equation of Education = Empowerment."

Connecticut is rich with some of the best private schools in the world. 19 schools are now part of the Mayor's Independent School Initiative. The Hartford Youth Scholars Foundation has been created and will serve as the vehicle to leverage and raise new funds.

Mayor Perez says, "This is a way to provide Hartford families with an additional educational option. And because 99-percent of the students who attend these private schools get into college, it is an opportunity for Hartford students to get the education they need to be competitive for the jobs of the future."

The January edition of "Connecticut Parent Magazine" is on newsstands now.